



Mini Classics

Alice in Wonderland



Little Owl

Alice in Wonderland

Meet the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat,
and a whole host of walking, talking playing
cards in Alice's incredible adventures!

Alice in Wonderland

by Lewis Carroll

retold by Clive Hopwood

illustrated by Kim Lane

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Alice was sitting on a riverbank with her sister, feeling sleepy. Suddenly she saw a White Rabbit.

He took out a watch and looked at it. "Oh dear! Oh dear!" he said. "I shall be too late!"

The next moment he went down a rabbit hole. Alice went in after him. She never stopped to think how she was to get out again.





Down, down, down she went. She seemed to fall a very long way. Then suddenly, thump! thump!, she landed.

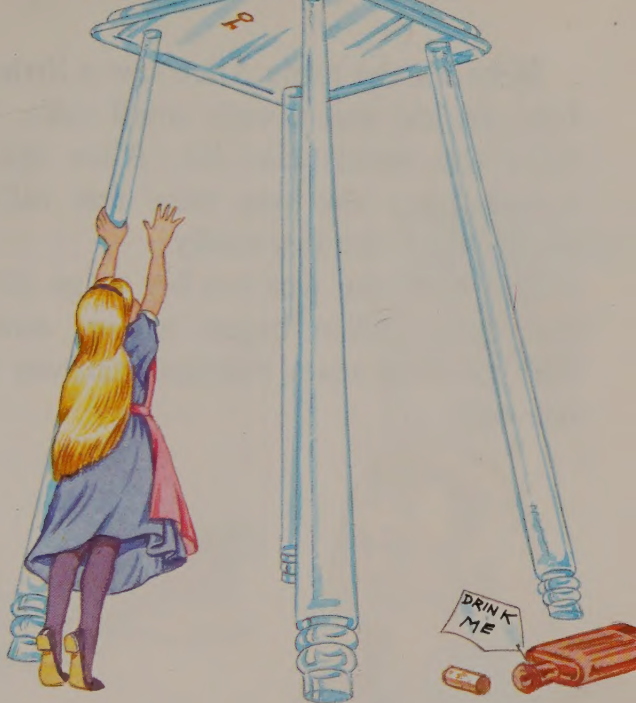
Alice was not hurt. She heard the White Rabbit say, "Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it is!" He hurried away. Alice ran like the wind after him, but he was gone.

Alice found herself in a long, low hall. There were doors all round, but they were all locked.

Then she saw a tiny golden key. It was on a little glass table. But the key was too small to open any of the doors.

Alice looked again. She saw a low curtain. Behind it was a little door. The key fitted and looking through the door she saw a lovely garden.





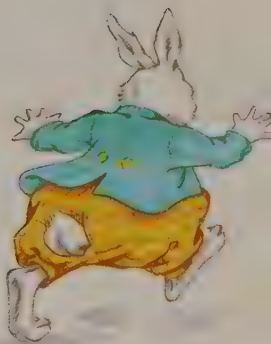
“But the door is much too small for me,” said Alice. She went back to the table. There was a little bottle on it. It had a label which said *Drink Me*.

The bottle was not marked ‘poison’ so Alice tasted it. It was very nice, and she drank it all. Slowly Alice began to grow smaller and smaller. Soon she was only ten inches tall! She could fit through the door. But now she was too small to reach the key which she had left on the table.

Beneath the table Alice saw a little glass box. Inside was a very small cake. On it were the words *Eat Me*. Alice did, and before long she was nine feet tall! She could reach the key easily.

But now she was too big to go through the door! Alice began to cry and cry. Her pool of tears reached halfway down the hall.





After a while the White Rabbit came along again. He was carrying a pair of gloves and a fan. "Oh!" he said to himself. "The Duchess. She will be cross if I keep her waiting."

Alice spoke to him. He jumped, dropping the gloves and fan, and ran away. Alice picked up the fan.

She began to shrink again! She dropped the fan quickly in case it made her shrink away to nothing.

Alice went back to the door. It was shut and the key was still on the table. "Oh, this is too bad!" said Alice. Just then she slipped in the salty water of her own tears.

"If I'm not careful," said Alice, "I could drown in my own tears."

Alice saw a Mouse. She spoke to him but he didn't answer. Alice thought he might be French, so she said the first French words she thought of: "Where is my cat?"





The Mouse jumped out of the water. "Our family has always hated cats," he said, and began to swim away.

"Oh, Mouse, do come back," called Alice. "I'm sorry."

The pool was now very crowded. As well as Alice and the Mouse, there was a Duck and a Dodo. There was also an Eaglet and a Lory, and several small creatures. Alice led them all to the shore.

Everybody was wet. Mouse said he would tell them all a story to make them dry. It was such a silly story that nobody understood it.

“I am as wet as ever,” said Alice, sadly.

“Then we must have a race,” said the Dodo, firmly.

It was a very strange race. They went round in a circle. Everybody started where and when they liked, and stopped where and when they liked.

When the race was over everybody had won. Alice had to give them all a prize!





After the prize-giving, the Mouse went on with his story. But soon he and Alice began arguing. The Mouse went away.

“I wish my cat, Dinah, was here,” said Alice. This made everyone else run away.

Alice felt lonely. Just then the White Rabbit came hurrying along. He was looking for his gloves and fan. They were nowhere to be seen.

The White Rabbit sent Alice to fetch some more from his house. He thought she was his housemaid.

Alice found the White Rabbit's house and went inside. Upstairs there was a little room. On a table there was a fan and three pairs of gloves.

There was also a little bottle. Alice drank from it. She began to grow quickly. She had to put one arm out of the window. And one foot went up the chimney!

After a while the White Rabbit came into the house. Alice's elbow was pressed hard against the bedroom door. It would not open.



The White Rabbit went outside. Alice's arm was blocking the window. The White Rabbit tried all sorts of ways to get in through the window. None of them worked though.

Then a shower of little pebbles fell on the roof. They turned into cakes and Alice ate one.

She began to shrink. When she was small enough she ran out of the house. She kept running until she was in a thick wood.



Alice saw a very big mushroom. On it sat a large blue Caterpillar. "Who are you?" he asked.

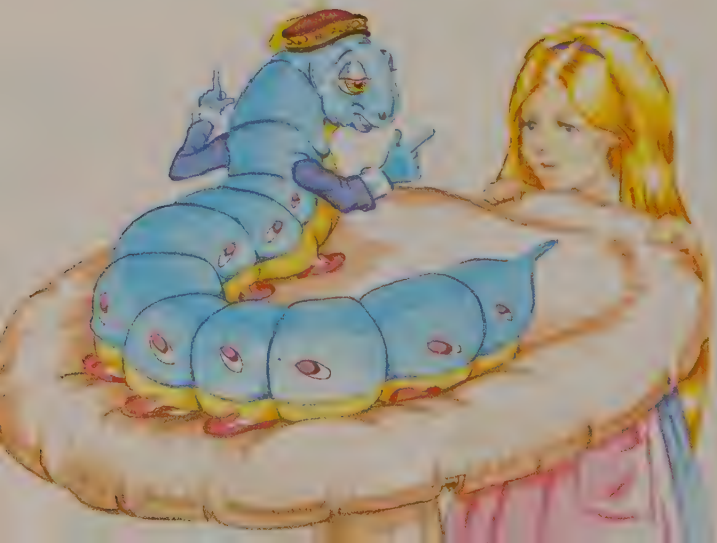
"I knew who I was this morning," said Alice. "But I keep changing size all the time. It's all very confusing. Tell me who you are first."

"Why?" asked the Caterpillar.

Alice could not answer. The Caterpillar told her, "One side will make you grow taller. The other side will make you grow shorter."

"One side of what?" asked Alice.

"The mushroom," said the Caterpillar, sliding away.





Alice broke off a bit of mushroom from each side. “Now which is which?” she asked. She nibbled one piece and then the other. At last she managed to get back to her right height.

Suddenly Alice saw a little house. She made herself small again. A Fish-Footman came and knocked on the door. A Frog-Footman opened the door.

“I have an invitation from the Queen,” said the Fish-Footman. “She wants the Duchess to play croquet.”

Alice went into the house. There was a lot of noise. She could hear howling and sneezing. Now and then there was a great crashing sound.

The Duchess was nursing a baby. They were both sneezing. The cook was making some peppery soup. A large cat on the hearth just sat and smiled.

“Why does your cat grin like that?” asked Alice.

“It is a Cheshire Cat that’s why,” replied the Duchess.





The Cheshire Cat told Alice how to get to the March Hare's house. When she arrived, he was having a tea party outside. The Mad Hatter was there. The Dormouse was fast asleep.

"No room! No room!" they cried out.

"There is plenty of room," said Alice, sitting down at the table. They asked each other riddles. The Dormouse told a story but kept falling asleep. It was all most strange.

Alice did not stay long. As she left, the Mad Hatter and the March Hare were trying to put the Dormouse in the teapot.



Alice found a little garden. Three Playing-Card Gardeners were painting the flowers red.

“It should have been a red rose tree,” said one of the Gardeners. “If the Queen finds out she will cut off our heads.”

Just then the Queen arrived. “Off with their heads!” she cried. But Alice hid the Gardeners. Then the Queen said, “Can you play croquet?”

The croquet game was very odd. Everyone played at once, and there was a lot of quarrelling.

Alice met the Duchess once more. The Duchess put her arm around her. "I am glad to see you. Pepper makes me bad-tempered," she said. Alice was glad to find her more pleasant.

But the Duchess was in trouble. She had boxed the Queen's ears!



The Duchess's voice died away in the middle of a word. The Queen stood in front of them. She had a face like a thunderstorm.

She stamped her foot. "Either you or your head must be off. The choice is all yours."

In a moment the Duchess was gone. The Queen thought Alice should meet the Mock Turtle. "He will tell you his story," she said.





They met a Gryphon, fast asleep in the sun. "Get up, you lazy thing," said the Queen. "Take this young lady to meet the Mock Turtle."

When the Queen had gone, the Gryphon said, "It is all in fun. No one ever really loses their head. Come on!"

They found the Mock Turtle sitting on a rock. He was sighing very sadly. "He only thinks he is sad," said the Gryphon.

Alice and the Gryphon sat down by the Mock Turtle. He began to tell his story. It was all about school. "We learnt French and music and washing," he said. "I was a real turtle then and we went to school in the sea."

"Enough about lessons," said the Gryphon. So the Mock Turtle sang her a song instead.

Then somebody shouted, "The trial is just beginning!"

"Come on!" said the Gryphon, taking Alice by the hand.





“Silence in court!” shouted the White Rabbit. He read out the charges. The White Rabbit said that the Knave of Hearts had stolen some jam tarts.

The first witness was the Mad Hatter. He had a teacup in one hand, and some bread and butter in the other.

As she listened Alice began to feel herself grow bigger.



The White Rabbit called Alice as the next witness. "What do you know about this?" asked the King.

"Nothing," replied Alice.

"That is important," said the King. "Write it down."

"He means it is unimportant," explained the White Rabbit.

Suddenly the King said, "All persons more than a mile high are to leave the court." Everyone looked at Alice.

None of it made any sense, and Alice became quite cross. She began to argue with the Queen.

“Hold your tongue!” the Queen told Alice, sharply.

“I will not,” said Alice.

“Off with her head!” said the Queen. Nobody moved.

“Who cares for you, anyway?” asked Alice. “You are only a pack of cards.”

At these words the whole pack flew up in the air. Alice screamed.

“Wake up, Alice,” said her sister.

Alice found herself lying on the river bank once more. “I had such a strange dream,” she said.





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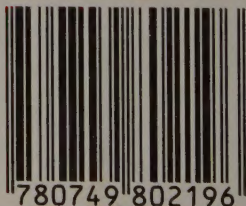
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